



Briggs Lake Chain Association

November 2024 Lake Report

The President's Report Shelly Alger- Peyton



email: sdreimer@fronter.com

cell: 612 283 8362

Greetings & Happy

November!!!



Happy Fall Ya'!!! What a beautiful color changing backdrop we are blessed to live amongst. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the amazing fall colors around our little community and shorelines including the northern lights that have danced in the night skies several times this summer and fall. I am not super excited about winter close behind, but we are blessed to experience four different seasons in our state and that is a wonderful gift. We are now all in full winterizing mode with watercrafts, docks, lake homes and water toys. So, make sure when winterizing to move all items, especially floatable items, far away from areas where Spring highwater may reach your belongings and they float away without your knowledge. If you are not able to move items up on your shoreline, please make sure they are securely tied down, so they don't end up lost on someone else's property and/or cause any issues.

I wish everyone a Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving holiday with family & friends.



I look forward to volunteering alongside you to heal our waterways!!!!

- Shelly

LEAVE LEAVES ALONE or RAKE THEM?

REMINDER: Fallen leaves add to the phosphorus levels in our lakes, so please do not deposit leaves into the lake. There are local compost locations for you to utilize to assist with this removal.



City of Becker: Local Compost Location:

12456 153rd Ave, Becker, MN 55308

Phone: (763) 261-4449

Hours: Monday through Sunday ... Open 24 hours'

City of Foley: Local Compost Location:

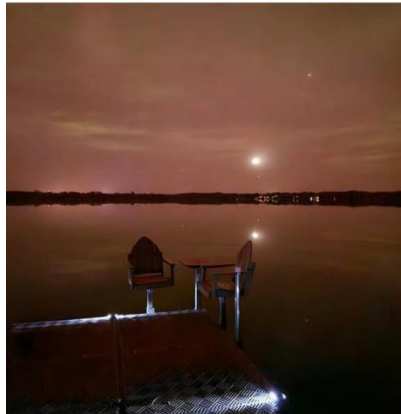
Call for site details – 320-968-7260



Briggs Lake Chain Association

Allan Kupczyk · 17h · 🌐

Over Elk.



A big THANKS to the team that did the Highway 25 clean up on Saturday October 19th.



Naomi Kimball

1d · 👥

Bees in the asters and monarchs on the zinnias, so happy 😊



Briggs Lake Chain Association

Teresa Marie Zehnder · 2h · 🌐

An ode to summer ❤️



Briggs Lake Chain

As...

Ruth Hanson Thom · 1h



This crewed rocked it today! 15 bags of trash in under two hours. Thanks to **Bernie Manifold, Bre Anna, Dave Maiers, Duane Anderson**, Gary, Dave and Kim, Meghan and son, Scott, Tom, and a special thank you to **Bradley Thom**, who did a mile on his own two days ahead, as well as a mile today!



“I Have a Question...” November 2024 – by Chuck Heinemann and Kenzie Phelps

At the June BLCA Membership meeting, Kenzie and I spoke about a new feature we propose for The Lake Report – “I Have a Question” to alternate with the “This I Remember” series. The idea got an enthusiastic response from those present, and we received several questions for us to work on.

Response to question posed at BLCA Annual Meeting in June 2024: *What is the status of **High Point**? By Kenzie Phelps*

They called it “The Mansion.” That was back in the mid-1930s. It was the large house built on the wooded hill between Briggs Lake and Rush Lake. The story has it that the building materials were delivered across Briggs Lake due to the lack of road access to the building site. Dean Lowell, a vice president at General Mills, and his wife made it their home for several years before moving to Arizona.

The Dean family was the next occupant of the mansion, but moved on after only two years, allegedly because of isolation. After remaining vacant for several years Minneapolis realtor Arthur Beecher bought the mansion intending to make it into a resort. He then later sold it in 1950 to acquaintances Elmer Beckman and his wife who referred to it as **High Point**. The 44-acre property was said to have been plotted for lake homes and cabins, but in November 1950 the Beckman’s decided to make the mansion into a senior living center.

Known as Lakeview Care Center, it grew over the years from 12 residents in 1952 to 91 in 1975. Over the years the Beckman’s made additions and upgrades to meet state regulations, but federal regulations forced a change that would define High Point for many years: Lakeview Care Center could not be sold as a nursing home, was closed, and eventually owned by US Federal Credit Union of Burnsville.

Known as “The Mansion,” then High Point, then Lakeview Care Center and then again as High Point, the vacated property was purchased in 2004 by Rick Lewandowski, owner of Edina Development. The BLCA board first learned about his plans for High Point when he appeared at a BLCA board meeting and asked the BLCA to “lead the parade” for his development of High Point.

His plan: 15 lake homes on the Briggs Lake side

- 44 townhomes
- central sewer and water
- shared pier with multiple slips on Rush Lake side
- new township road

The BLCA response was unanimous: “We don’t think so!” The concerns were many, but primary was the negative impact it would have on water quality. Several BLCA board members even took Lewandowski to a conference focusing on the negative impacts that such developments had on water quality. Undaunted, he took his cause to the Palmer Township board, who promptly said “n” to a new road. Then on to the county zoning, who said “no way,” it’s zoned agriculture. Edina Development eventually went belly up, and ownership was once again in the hands of a bank.

Vacated High Point became a destination for young partygoers. Stories and rumors were passed along to locals who loved current “news.” There were frequent calls and responses from the Sherburne County Sheriff’s office.

The High Point story was not over, however. In August 2009 the mansion/Lakeview Care center/High Point burned to the ground. The financial institutions who owned the property were not inclined to continue owning such a property, and an individual knowledgeable about such matters purchased it and intends to build a private home on the site. *A real fire sale!*

[Information about the early years of High Point was from an article in The Citizen in 2009.]

Editors Note: There is a Facebook page called “Palmer MN Area History and Genealogy”. I checked to see if I could find any pictures of the area. There weren’t any. I did find this 1914 Plat map. Section 27 is High Point. It looks like C.D. Schwab was the owner at one time. Thanks to Terri Larson for letting me know about this page. Check it out.



Upcoming events & reminders

2024/2025:

Please plan on attending your monthly BLCA meetings at the Palmer Townhall, on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30am. To learn about and assist with water conservation, enriching activities, food and fellowship.

NEXT MEETING – MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Sat. November 9th at 8:30am



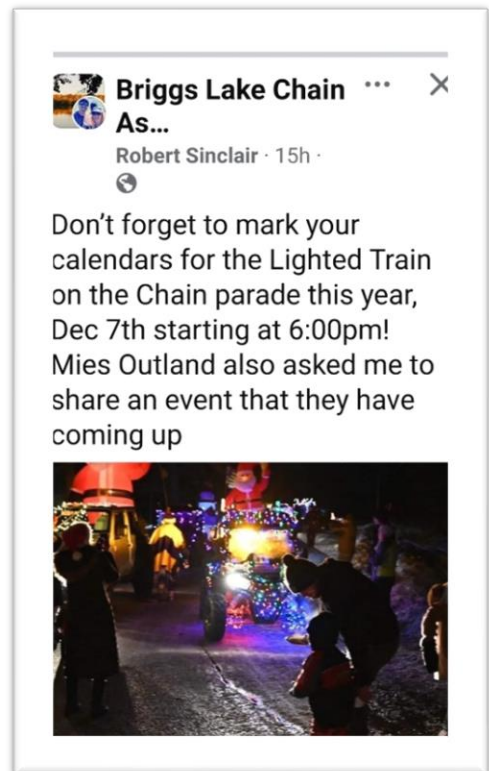
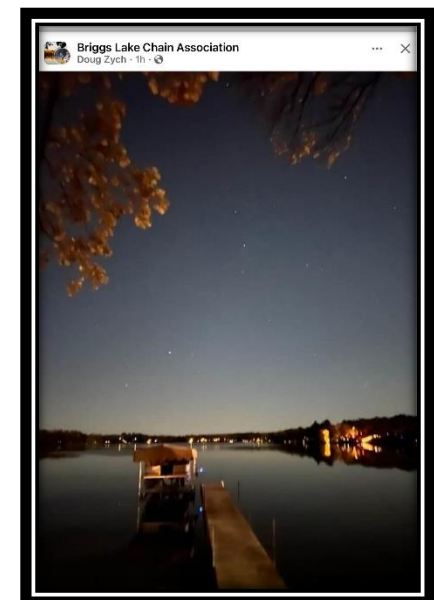
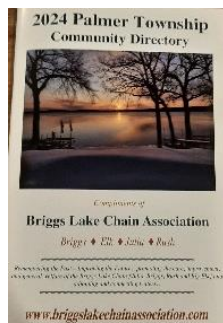
Lighted Train on the Chain 2024 – Saturday, December 7, 2024, starting at 6:00pm

8th Annual Ice Day on the Chain – Saturday, February 8, 2025

We are still looking for additional LCA committee members/Lake representatives for all 4 of our lakes.

We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers, fresh ideas and solutions to continue our water conservation to heal our lakes and evolve with the ever-changing environment. Duties include approving proposed budgets/contracts/permits/events

*** Did you get your 2024 Palmer Directory!!** If you do not have a newspaper mailbox for hand delivery, you can pick up your copy of the 2024 directory at Palmer Township Hall (on Tuesday's) or the Palmer General Store by the main entrance door.



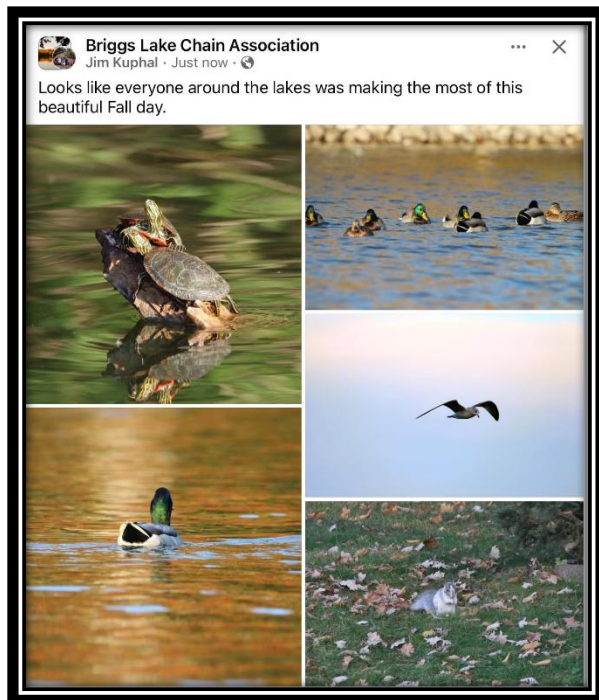
Be sure to watch the BLCA website, Facebook page and Instagram for DNR ice fishing safety/rule reminders and ice fishing Do's & Dont's!!!!

We need everyone's year-a-round help to heal our lakes and surrounding watershed, we cannot do this alone.

Be safe & respectful while enjoying the lakes & nature this Fall season.

*** If you or your someone you know in the area is not receiving our emailed "Lake Report" monthly newsletter, please contact bradkipp1@gmail.com so we can keep everyone notified of volunteer opportunities, community events, new projects and high water/no wake emergencies.**

If you would like to VOLUNTEER as a committee member or for one of the above-mentioned positions/events contact Shelly via call or text at 612-283-8362 or email at sdreimer@frontier.com.



BLCA Mission statement: Remembering the Past - Improving the Future - Promoting Care, Improvement, and General Welfare of the

Briggs Lake Chain (Julia, Briggs, Rush and Big Elk) and adjoining and connecting watershed.